

Abergele Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1954

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

WILLIAM McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.,

which includes the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



Housing and Health Committee, 1954-55

Councillor R. H. JONES, C.C. (Chairman).

Councillor P. IDWAL JONES (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors :

F. W. Bulkeley.	Hywel Parry.
W. D. Davies.	John Parry.
J. W. Hand.	A. J. Power.
Rev. H. Haynes.	M. L. Tarmaster.
D. E. Jones.	J. Ellis Williams.
John Jones.	R. E. Williams.
E. Emrys Morris.	S. Wilmott.
Henry Parry.	J. C. Winkup.

Staff of the Health Department, 1954-55 :

Medical Officer of Health :

Wm. McKENDRICK, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

FRANK EVANS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Cert. Smoke Inspection.

PENTRE MAWR,
ABERGELE.

8th August, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members,
Abergele Urban District Council,
Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my report on the health of the residents in your area during 1954. The report follows the requirements of the Minister of Health.

You will learn that 1954 was a very healthy year. The death rate was very low, infant mortality rate was low, and infectious diseases were few. To some extent this is surprising, because 1954 was almost summerless. Moreover, it was not a year in which any notable Public Health Service began to exert its influence. The long hoped for sewerage scheme in the Kinmel Bay area is now in construction ; the sewerage of the central part of the area is giving rise to worry and has evoked energetic action ; the housing schemes await the sewerage schemes ; housing demolition awaits the building schemes—indeed, 1954 was an unhappy period of stalemate, but 1955 brings progress and hope.

Those services that could run efficiently have done so. The Camps were better run. I feel that most of the camp owners are on our side now. Winter camping has almost ceased ; disorderly and untidy campers are being eliminated, and unsightly and dilapidated caravans and huts are removed. Those who object to camping must keep in mind that the Towyn area provides about a quarter-of-a-million people with a holiday who might not otherwise obtain one. Consequently, we must not condemn camping as such—if we do, we will find that the people of Britain (and Parliament) are against us—we must seek powers of control so that the holiday can be of maximum benefit to the nation. In my opinion, this means that we should have greater control of sites, of density, of lay-out, of the number of residents per caravan, of what constitutes a “ caravan,” etc.

I am glad that the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector are now being asked to advise the Housing Sub-Committees in the allocation of houses. This will ensure that the Committees are aware of the relative merits of applications supported by medical certificates as well as the state of repair of the houses of applicants. Closing or demolition orders will coincide with removal of residents from bad houses.

I feel that 1954, with all its frustrations, was a successful year. It was a happy year because of the very pleasant relations that existed between the officials. To the Clerk (Mr. Trefor Jones) and the Surveyor (Mr. Gethin) I would express my gratitude for many kindnesses shown. Mr. Frank Evans, the Sanitary Inspector, as this report shows, has been indefatigable. He knows his district and all that goes on in it, and I feel that in him I have a very staunch colleague. I would point out, however, that there is a limit to the calls that can be made on his time. The present unreasonable use of the slaughterhouse—animals are killed late at night and have to be inspected either then or very early next morning—is imposing an unfair burden on him.

To you, Mr. Chairman, I have to express my thanks for your genial stimulation and generous help during the year.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Wm. McKENDRICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Area of District (acres)	7965
Registrar-General's Estimated Population (Mid 1954)	7160
Census Population 1951	7539
Rateable Value	£48,424
Sum represented by a penny rate	£191/0/5

Live Births :

	Male	Female	Total
Total	48	49	97
Legitimate	46	48	94
Illegitimate	2	1	3
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population			13.5
Comparability figure for births			1.11
Corrected Birth Rate			15

Still Births :

There were no still-births during 1954.

Infant Deaths :

(a) Under 1 year	1	1	2
(both legitimate)			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 births ...			20.6
(b) Under 4 weeks of age	1	—	1

Deaths	54	50	104
Mortality rate per 1,000 population			14.5
Comparability figure for deaths			0.75
Corrected death rate			8.8

Deaths from :

(1) Pregnancy	0
(2) Cancer	20
(3) Coronary Thrombosis	23
(4) Other Circulatory Diseases	29
(5) Tuberculosis	0

The following table shows the vital statistics for Abergele during the past six years :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Population	7395	7575	7327	7186	7099	7160
Births	137	134	114	116	97	104
Live Birth Rate (corrected)	18.5	17.6	15.7	15.5	15.4	13.5
Still Births	5	3	2	5	2	0
Still Birth Rate	0.8	0.4	0.27	0.69	0.28	0.00
Infant Deaths	2	5	3	2	3	2
Infant Mortality Rate	14.6	37.3	26.2	17.0	29	20.6
Deaths	90	121	118	99	102	104
Death Rate (corrected)	12.1	15.9	12.7	11.2	11.9	8.8
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.3	0.0

The above table shows that 1954 was the healthiest year in Abergele for some time. The corrected death rate was only 8.8. Only two infant lives were lost and there were no still births—this is the best on record. It will be noted, however, that the comparability factors have exerted a very considerable influence on the birth and death rates. Last year the rates were 1.02 and 0.83 respectively—showing that we had then a population that, because its average age was high, could not be very fertile and would be expected to have more than an average proportion of deaths. The factors have moved sharply, from 1.02 to 1.11 (births) and from 0.83 to 0.75 (deaths) ; this shows that the population is losing its young folk rapidly. That they emigrate must be due to lack of employment in Abergele. The problem is becoming acute.

It is interesting to note that whereas the population in 1931 was 4,808, it had increased by 53.6% to 7,539 at the night of the 1951 census. 3,406 were males and 4,133 were females.

The following table shows the ages at which death occurred :—

	Male	Female	Total
0— 1	1	1	2
1— 4	—	—	—
5— 9	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	—
15—19	1	—	1
20—24	1	—	1
25—34	—	—	—
35—44	—	1	1
45—54	2	1	3
55—64	12	6	18
Over 65	37	41	78
	—	—	—
	54	50	104
	—	—	—

It is noteworthy that only 8 of the 104 deaths affected persons under 55 years of age.

The two infant deaths were unpreventable—they were due to congenital malformations. One lived 2 days and the other 4 days.

The following table shows the causes of deaths :—

	Male	Female	Total	
			1954	1953
Syphilis	0	0	0	1
Cancer—				
Stomach	1	3	4	1
Lungs	4	0	4	1
Breast	0	1	1	2
Other	6	5	11	9
	— 11 —	9 —	20 —	13
Diabetes	0	0	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	5	10	17
Coronary diseases	17	6	23	13
Hypertension, etc.	1	0	1	2
Other heart disease	1	7	8	11
Other circulatory disease	2	8	10	8
Influenza	1	0	1	2
Pneumonia	1	2	3	5
Bronchitis	3	1	4	4
Other respiratory disease	1	0	1	1
Ulcer of stomach	1	0	1	0
Gastritis, etc.	0	1	1	0
Nephritis, etc.	0	1	1	3
Prostatic disease	3	0	3	2
Disease of pregnancy	0	0	0	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2	3
Other diseases	6	8	14	15
Accidents	0	1	1	0
	— 54 —	— 50 —	— 104 —	— 102 —

These figures show that there was not a single death due to tuberculosis in 1954. This is worthy of note but must be taken as due more to advances in treatment rather than a conquest of the disease. The number of actual cases of tuberculosis on the register increased to 63—of which 16 were new cases during the year.

There were 4 cases of cancer of the lungs as compared with 1 in 1953. The deaths due to coronary disease numbered 23—a startling figure.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) **Bacteriological :**

Samples of water, sewage, milk, ice-cream and other foods, as well as specimens taken from persons suspected of suffering from infectious conditions, are sent by the Sanitary Inspector and me to the Public Health Laboratories at Bryn Hyfryd, Conway. The Director, Dr. Kingsley Smith, has shown that he regards his function as that of expert advisor in bacteriological work, and so has helped me greatly in the control of disease. It will be noted that this Laboratory specialises in the prevention of disease. The rapidity with which reports are received is noteworthy.

(b) **Pathological :**

Doctors may send to the Pathological Laboratory at Rhyl—Royal Alexandra Hospital—or at Colwyn Bay and West Denbighshire Hospital—any material likely to help him in the diagnosis of disease.

This laboratory is essentially concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

(c) **Water :**

Water is tested for bacteriological purity at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway. This is done frequently—29 samples were sent from the Glyn Lws supply which is controlled by the Abergele Council, and 6 from the Rhyl water supply. I feel that this service is a very necessary one. The tests not only show the efficiency of the filter and chlorination plant, but they test the distribution system. Water that is good when it reaches the town may be fouled by leaking valves or broken mains—this bacteriological test will reveal the fault.

Chemical tests reveal faults in the collection grounds. These are made at the Assay Office, Chester.

(d) **Milk and Other Foods :**

This area is now a special area where only designated milks may be sold. Samples are taken by the County Sanitary Inspector at their source, but as we regard pure milk as a very precious right of the residents, the Abergele Sanitary Inspector took 48 samples in course of delivery. After all, we are not really interested in milk when it leaves the farm or pasteurising plant ; we are concerned with its quality when it reaches the home, and only the Abergele officials can check at this stage.

60 samples of ice cream were sent for examination.

Mr. Evans, Chief Inspector to the Denbigh County Council, has given me the following report on adulteration of food in Abergele :—

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act in Abergele Urban District during the year ended 31st December, 1954

Article	No. taken	Genuine	Not Genuine or Sub-Standard
Milk	27	22	5
Butter	1	1	—
Margarine	1	1	—
Cheese	1	1	—
Ice Cream	1	1	—
Sausage	1	1	—
Pepper	1	1	—
	—	—	—
Totals	33	28	5
	—	—	—

As will be observed from the above Table, five samples of milk were certified as being “Not Genuine.” In two instances the deficiency was in solids-not-fat, and in three other samples there was a deficiency in fat, but in no case was there any added water present. Each of the fat deficiencies was traced back to the cows which were found to be giving milk which was not up to the Presumptive Standard of 3%.

All other samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

(Signed) THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill,
Wrexham.
22nd April, 1955.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were reported to me during the year. I take this to mean that no serious case was diagnosed as food poisoning and no considerable group of persons was affected at one time. The handling of food in the area leaves much to be desired.

Ambulance Facilities :

The County Council is responsible for the provision of transport for those unable to travel by public conveyance. The day-to-day administration of this service has devolved on me.

During the year, a new light ambulance was provided for the Abergele area. It is stationed at Abergele and manned by a corps

of volunteers assisted by one full-time driver. We were fortunate in finding such a team of men. They are enthusiastic and very willing to give time and service—but the essential value of their service is the manner of the giving. The comfort and ease of mind of their patients is their main concern. The Abergele Ambulance Corps is a unit of which Abergele may well be proud.

I am glad to be able to report that with the aid of the local doctors abuses of the service are now few and are quickly controlled.

Nursing in the Home :

Two nurses service the district. They are employed by the County Council.

Home Helps :

The County Council provides a Home Help where conditions require it. Applications are made to the Health Visitor or to me. This service is not necessarily free nor is it provided for an indefinite period. It is given when the normal housekeeper is temporarily incapacitated.

Clinics :

Clinics are provided by the County Council. They are held as follows :—

1. Child Welfare :

Pentre Mawr, Abergele : Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Llanddulas—Beulah Schoolroom, alternate Mondays at 2 p.m.

2. Orthopaedic :

Colwyn Bay Clinic, Nant-y-Glyn Road, alternate Thursdays at 11 a.m.

3. Ophthalmic Clinic :

As required. Appointments are made for an Ophthalmic Surgeon to attend at Colwyn Bay or Abergele Clinics.

4. Dental Clinics :

By appointment at Pentre Mawr, Abergele.

5. Tuberculosis :

Rhyl (ordinary clinic), Friday, 9 a.m. until noon, at 26 Edward Henry Street, Rhyl.

Rhyl (refill clinics), Fridays at 2 p.m. (same place).

Colwyn Bay, at West Denbighshire Hospital, Hesketh Road, on first and third Thursdays at 2 p.m.

Day Nurseries :

There are no Day Nurseries in the area.

Tuberculosis :

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations which enable me to prevent any person suffering from Tuberculosis engaging in the milk trade ; nor has it been necessary to compel any person to go to a Sanatorium.

There is need for power to prevent persons suffering from open Tuberculosis serving ice cream cones.

The following table shows the age of distribution of new cases notified to me during the year :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— 9	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—19	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—44	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	9	—	2	—	—	—	—

The following shows the state of the Tuberculosis Register on 1/1/54 and on 31/12/54 and also on 1/1/53.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1/1/53	32	24	2	2	60
1/1/54	34	17	3	2	56
31/12/54	37	20	3	3	63

As the Tuberculosis service, through the special Health Visitor allocated to that work, is keen, I feel that the register reflects truly the incidence of this disease in the area. I feel that there is not enough isolation of old infectious cases. The fact that a person is

not likely to be cured seems to be a reason why he should not be admitted to a sanatorium—the fact that he is left free to infect those who visit him or live with him does not seem to concern the hospital authorities.

There is an increasing search for early cases and they are well cared for. Immunisation of infants in infected families is also becoming common. I hope that immunisation of school children against Tuberculosis by B.C.G. will soon be undertaken in this area.

The following statement, given to me by Dr. Morrison, the Chest Physician, shows the work done at the Chest Clinic :—

New contacts examined	19
New patients examined (excluding contacts)	37
New notified cases :	
Pulmonary (M. 1, F. 3)	4
Non-Pulmonary (M. 0, F. 1)	1
Names taken off the Register :	
Died	2
Left area	6
Recovered	4
Lost sight of	0

Infectious Diseases :

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases in the area in 1954. (There were no deaths from any of these diseases.)

Cases notified	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.
Whooping Cough	33	1	11	21	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	5	—	3	2	—	—	—	—
Measles	32	2	14	16	—	—	—	—
Erisipelas	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	—	—	2	1	7	2	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	5	1	—	1	1	—	1	1
Dysentery	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-myelitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	94	4	31	44	2	9	3	1

Water Supply :

I am grateful to Mr. J. Round, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Engineer and Manager of the Rhyl U.D.C. Water Department, for the following statement on the water supply to Kinmel Bay, Towyn and Abergele areas :—

“ The Rhyl Water Undertaking’s direct source of supply is a gathering ground in the Parish of Llanefydd. This gathering ground has an area of 900 acres and an average annual rainfall of 30.5 inches. The water is stored in two impounding reservoirs—Plas Uchaf (storage capacity 50 million gallons) and Dolwen 48 million gallons). This source is supplemented, except during very wet periods, by pumping water from the River Aled into Plas Uchaf Reservoir. In dry weather an adequate flow in the River Aled is maintained by releasing water from two other impounding reservoirs—Llyn Aled (375 million gallons) and Aled Isaf (270 million gallons), situated on the Denbigh Moors, near Llansannan.

The water is chlorinated at a dosage of about 1 part per million as it leaves Plas Uchaf Reservoir, and is treated at Glascoed Filter Station by pressure filters of the air scour type using sulphate of alumina as a coagulant and sodium carbonate for p.H. correction. 0.5 parts per million of chlorine are added after filtration for final sterilization of the water.

Consumption of Water in Abergele (estimated) during 1954

	Total monthly consumption	Average daily consumption during month
January	9,685,000 gallons	312,000 gallons
February	10,118,000 „	361,000 „
March	10,537,000 „	340,000 „
April	10,559,000 „	352,000 „
May	11,198,000 „	361,000 „
June	12,530,000 „	418,000 „
July	14,620,000 „	472,000 „
August	14,843,000 „	479,000 „
September	11,938,000 „	398,000 „
October	10,737,000 „	346,000 „
November	10,140,000 „	338,000 „
December	10,380,000 „	335,000 „

Bacteriological Tests of Treated Water

Number sent to Public Health Laboratory, Conway	96
Number returned as Class 1 (Highly Satisfactory)	96

Chemical Analysis

The following chemical analysis was made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, London.

Appearance	Bright with a very slight deposit of mineral debris.
Turbidity	Less than three (3)
Odour	Nil

Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace
Total solids	130
Alkalinity as CaCo	35
Colour	9
p.H.	7.1
Electric Conductivity	190
Chlorine present as Chloride	18

Hardness :

Total	60
Carbonate	35
Non-Carbonate	25
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.8
Nitrite Nitrogen Less than	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00
Oxygen absorbed	0.40
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.02
Residual Chlorine	Absent

Metals :

Iron	0.05
Other metals	Absent

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of Iron (negligible). The water is soft in character and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution.

It is free from noticeable colour, and of a very satisfactory organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis, these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

New Works :

No major works directly affecting the supply of water to Abergele were carried out during the year, but improvements were made to the trunk main system supplying the town which have resulted in better pressures in the high level areas."

(Signed) J. ROUND,

Engineer and Manager.

The Llanddulas area is supplied from Glyn Lws. This supply is under the control of Mr. Gethin, Abergele Surveyor. The water is chlorinated and has been maintained at all times at a satisfactory degree of purity. The quantity is hardly sufficient, and calls are made from time to time on the Colwyn Bay water supply.

TABLE I
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1954

General Summary

No. of complaints received and attended to	96
No. of inspections for detection of nuisances	296
No. of re-visits in connection with nuisances	89
No. of nuisances abated	71
No. of nuisances not abated but work in hand	17
No. of informal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	64
No. of Formal Notices served for the abatement of nuisances	1
No. of visits re Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites	174
No. of enquiries re Infectious Diseases	12
No. of visits to Slaughterhouse	371
No. of visits to premises where food is prepared and sold ...	97
No. of visits to Ice Cream Shops	70
No. of samples taken of Ice Cream	60
No. of visits re Milk Control	120
No. of samples taken of Milk Supply	54
No. of visits re Water Supply	61
No. of Water Samples collected	37
No. of visits re Rodent Control	29
No. of Inspections of Factories	21
No. of Miscellaneous visits	126
No. of Interviews	205
No. of visits re Shops Acts	14
No. of visits re Refuse and Salvage	108

TABLE II

Sanitary Defects

No. of defective or choked drains	14
No. of defective W.C. accommodation and Sanitary Fittings	5
No. of defects in water supply fittings	3
No. of defective pails or absence of pails	6
No. of dilapidated refuse bins or absence of bins	40
No. of defective roofs or chimney stacks	8
No. of defective rainwater fittings	2
No. of damp conditions of houses	7
No. of miscellaneous nuisances	14

TABLE III

Housing Statistics

1.	Inspection of dwellings during the year.	
	(a) Total number of Dwellings inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ...	44
	(b) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
	(c) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of that referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	34
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.	
	Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	29
3.	Action under statutory powers during the year.	
	Number of houses in respect of which Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936, were served ...	1
4.	Demolition as a result of informal action.	
	Number of individually unfit houses demolished by the owners	1
5.	Number of premises demolished as a result of formal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	1
6.	Number of premises in respect of which Undertakings were accepted under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	6

HOUSING

Housing is a problem which is continuously under consideration by the Council and its Officials.

Since the last Report of this kind was made, two new aspects of the subject have come into prominence. Firstly, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Housing, the final release of houses held by the Council under Requisition involved the use of a number of the houses on the Sydenham Avenue Site for rehousing purposes. This policy had to be accepted by the Council and the housing needs of the permanent residents in the area had, in some cases, to be ignored in favour of the demands of the occupiers of these requisitioned houses, most of whom came into the area as evacuees during the war time. In several instances although housing accommodation was offered to these families by the Councils of the areas from which they came, such offers were refused. It

cannot be denied, however, that there were a number of adverse features connected with the occupation of requisitioned houses.

Secondly, by the enactment of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, attention has been focussed on the need to deal with the clearance of slum properties. The re-housing of families occupying this type of property has again made further demands on the very limited number of houses the Council has been able to build. In such cases, however, steps have been taken to prevent the re-occupation of the house vacated, and a useful, if small, contribution has been made to the final solving of the slum clearance problem. The effect of these two facets of the housing problem must have resulted in the main body of applicants for Council Houses seeing little improvement in their prospects of securing a tenancy.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, imposed on the Local Authorities an obligation to submit to the Ministry proposals to deal with unfit houses. It is considered that there are at least one hundred and fifty houses in the Urban Area which are unfit and cannot be made fit at reasonable expense and which should be demolished. In the Abergele town area such houses are in groups or blocks and will have to be dealt with by Clearance Area procedure. In the case of one such area consideration might well be given to the compulsory purchase of the property and also of adjoining land for re-development purposes.

In the more rural parts of our area, such houses are sited singly or in small groups, and these present rather different problems.

At the end of the year there were still fourteen houses occupied which had, in 1936, been the subject of confirmed Clearance Orders. Gradually the number of these premises is being reduced, and as each house is vacated, steps are of course taken to prevent its re-occupation. It is considered that such houses must be the first to receive attention in the Council's Slum Clearance work.

The task of the Council's Housing Selection Sub-Committees is both difficult and unenviable, but the increasing co-operation with the Health Department Officers is very gratifying and is in the best interests of the ratepayers in general. Housing above all other matters calls for complete co-operation and understanding between the Council members and officials.

A useful contribution to the solving of the housing problem has been made during the year by action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, together with Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act, 1953. In some cases Demolition Orders have been made ; in others, undertakings have been accepted that the premises would not be re-occupied, while a small number of offers to carry out works needed to make the houses fit have also been accepted.

As far as is known, little use has been made of those provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, which relate to the increase of rents. In one case, however, a certificate of disrepair was authorised by the Council.

The amendments made to the Housing Act, 1949, with regard to the conditions attaching to Improvement Grants, have resulted in more interest being shown in the improvement and modernisation of houses. The Council set up a small Sub-Committee to decide on a policy and to deal with any applications made.

No action has yet been taken to apply the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, which relate to houses which are occupied by several families. There are a number of such premises where useful work in improving the standard of domestic accommodation should be carried out.

The unauthorised use of temporary accommodation, such as huts and even caravans, for housing purposes again demanded much attention.

CONTROL OF CAMPING SITES

There are now forty-eight licensed camping sites in the Urban Area, the total area of land involved being approximately two hundred and fifty acres. It is estimated that about six thousand moveable dwellings are sited on these camps. During the peak of the holiday season several fields are used to accommodate people using tents, while other fields are used by organised parties such as Boy Scouts, School Camp Parties, and the like.

This industry results in a seasonal increase in the population of about thirty thousand people. When it is recalled that the resident population of the whole Urban Area is less than seven and a half thousand, it will be seen that there is an increase of four hundred per cent. To provide adequately all the public services required by such increased seasonal population imposes on the local authority an extremely heavy burden.

During the year three applications for licences in respect of new sites were received and were refused. Thus no new site became licensed.

One application was received from a Camp Site proprietor for permission to increase the number of caravans on the site : this application was also refused.

Following upon the death of the proprietor of another site, in respect of which there was no condition limiting the number of caravans, an application was received for a new licence. The

Council, on the advice of its Public Health Officers, granted a new licence with new conditions. One of these conditions limited the density of dwellings to twenty per acre. An appeal was made to the Local Court of Summary Jurisdiction against this condition but the appeal was dismissed. This exercise by the Council of the powers given in Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, resulted in the density of caravans per acre being reduced from sixty to twenty.

Wherever it is possible, the closest co-operation is maintained with the Planning Authority on Camping matters. A Local Sanitary Authority's powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, are much too severely limited to give adequate control, and only the proper exercise by the Planning Authority of their wider powers can prevent the establishment of new Camping Sites in those parts of our area where such development would be detrimental to amenities.

The unauthorised siting of small numbers of caravans or of single caravans on isolated sites causes a great deal of concern both to the Planning Authority and to the Council. During the year I reported on no fewer than fourteen cases of this kind. The following up of such cases is a task to which a great deal of time has to be devoted. All but one of these cases were brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

During the summer several caravans were destroyed by fire. The attention of the camp site proprietors was drawn to the desirability of adequate spacing between the caravans ; to the removal of obsolete types of dwellings which, in fact, were not readily moved in case of emergency ; and to the desirability of accommodating only modern trailer caravans fitted with modern means of lighting and cooking. There was a good response to this approach, and the discarded bus-body type of caravan and other undesirable and obsolete types of dwellings are steadily decreasing in numbers.

The disposal of sewage and the disposal of refuse from the camping sites present great difficulties. The progress now being made with the sewerage scheme in the Towyn and Kinmel Bay areas enables us to look forward to the solving of the sewage disposal problems.

During the peak of the holiday season anxiety is felt regarding the possibility of outbreak of infectious disease. Fortunately the year passed without any notable occurrence of disease. The fact that in the great majority of cases the feeding habits of caravanners are individual rather than communal is perhaps an advantage in relation to risk of food infections.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

At last it is possible to report actual progress with the construction work involved in providing a sewerage scheme in the Towyn and Kinnel Bay areas. The need for this scheme has been growing year by year on account of the increase in the number of permanent houses and bungalows and no less on account of the heavy increase in the number of holiday-makers housed in caravans in the coastal parts of the area.

Owing to the absence of such a scheme, the ditches in this area become extremely foul, and during warm weather in particular, the area is pervaded with a most disagreeable odour. In many cases these ditches have little or no natural fall, and in dry weather they become stagnant ponds of sewage effluent. The introduction of the sewerage scheme will bring with it many problems with regard to the connections from all types of premises. When all these problems have been successfully overcome, the environmental conditions will be much more satisfactory.

The foul sewers being provided in Towyn and Kinnel Bay, together with the necessary pumping stations, are designed for foul sewage only, and could not contend with all the surface water drainage which the owners of properties would be legally entitled to discharge into them. It is, therefore, necessary to embark upon a scheme of surface water sewerage. When this scheme is brought into operation a further improvement in environmental conditions will be achieved. Much of the area concerned is both low-lying and flat, and even when both schemes are operating, troubles may arise in periods of wet weather.

It is also pleasing to report progress with regard to the extension eastwards of the sewer from Belgrano. Almost the whole of the coastal strip from Pensarn to the Foryd is carrying development. This development can be increased if provision is made for the adequate sewerage of the area.

Difficulties are being experienced with regard to the condition and adequacy of the sewers in the Abergele and Pensarn areas. It is most regrettable that this is delaying the construction of houses on the Sydenham Avenue Site.

Owing to the lack of sewerage facilities in certain parts of the St. George Ward, improvement in the housing conditions cannot be effected.

The majority of houses in the village of Rhydyfoel are provided with pail closets because of the lack of sewerage facilities. The position here is both difficult and serious, as absence of drainage is in some cases so vital a factor as to render houses unfit and suit-

able only for demolition. It has, however, been found possible to provide sewerage disposal facilities for the new Council Houses, and this fact might appear as a ray of hope to at least a part of the village.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

One urgent need for Public Convenience facilities has now been met by the provision made at the Cafe premises at the Old Lifeboat House at Llanddulas.

The Council's proposals to consider the erection of facilities in connection with the Bee Field Car Park is one which should be given early approval.

RODENT CONTROL

Once again the scheme which operates jointly with the Aled Rural District Council functioned smoothly throughout the year. By this scheme one Rodent Operative serves both Councils, who pay for his services on the basis of the time worked in the area.

Regular inspections are made of premises where infestations are most likely, and prompt action prevents the development of serious infestations. It was not necessary during the year to use statutory powers although it is very often difficult to convince the occupiers of premises that they are responsible for dealing with infestations.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act requires a local authority to recover the cost of treatment of business premises, but a free service may be given in the case of domestic premises.

A Ministry grant of 50% of the net expenditure is made so that the direct cost of this service to the Ratepayers is comparatively small.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No complaint was made during the year of smoke nuisance from industrial premises.

FACTORIES

The Statutory return under the Factories Acts appears under, and it will be seen that there are twenty-six power and nine non-power factories in our area. It was not found necessary to take action against any of the occupiers of factory premises.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in Respect of the Year 1954 for the Urban District of Abergele in the County of Denbigh.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part 1 of the Act

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities †	1	9	5	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	26	16	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ‡ (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total		35	21	—	—	

† To prevent any differences between the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937, are enforced by Local Authorities, it is requested that Local Authorities should compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

‡ *i.e.* Electrical Stations [Section 103 (1)], Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(8)	(8)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	60	—	—	—	—	—	60
Total		—	—	—	—	—	

Part VIII of the Act. Outwork. (Sections 110 and 111)

One person engaged in the making of wearing apparel was on the Register at the end of the year.

SHOPS ACTS ADMINISTRATION

The matter of retail trading on Sundays is one which always causes concern, particularly during the holiday season. There are so many exceptions to the prohibition of retail trading on Sundays that strict enforcement becomes an impossible task.

No difficulties were experienced during the summer, however, in connection with the retailing on Sundays of fried fish and chips. A petition by these retailers for the Council to make an order under Section 51 of the Shops Act, 1950, to permit the retail trade on eighteen Sundays of fried fish and chips was refused.

FOOD INSPECTION

Early in the year it became known that the Ministry of Food proposed to end their control of slaughtering by the end of June. The report of the Interdepartmental Committee on Slaughterhouses was considered by the Council in March, and the recommendations contained in that report were acted upon. A meeting of butchers, farmers, auctioneers and all interested parties was held and the Council advertised for a tenant for the slaughterhouse. Finally the premises were leased to a local butcher on terms which were considered fair to the two parties directly concerned and to the meat traders in the area.

The immediate effect of the end of Ministry control was a sudden and very heavy increase in the number of animals being dealt with at the slaughterhouse, as the following tables show :—

<i>July to December, 1953</i>	<i>July to December, 1954</i>
Cattle 318	Cattle 754
Sheep and Lambs 2058	Sheep and Lambs 8180
Pigs 240	Pigs 1410
Calves 83	Calves 437
<hr/> Total 2699	<hr/> Total 10781

The natural result of this increased slaughtering was, of course, a corresponding increase in the time which had to be devoted to meat inspection duties.

The slaughtering trade, being integrated both with the auction sales and the meat retailing trade, is one which is subject to irregular hours, resulting in correspondingly irregular hours for meat inspection duties. It was, therefore, necessary for me to carry out meat inspection duties at the slaughterhouse during the evenings and at week-ends on no less than sixty-three occasions during the months July to December.

The table which follows gives details of the numbers of animals slaughtered and examined and the numbers affected with disease. Whenever it was considered desirable, the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was informed of the farm of origin of the diseased animals. As in the past there was always ready co-operation from the slaughtermen in the discharge of my meat inspection duties.

Throughout the year samples were taken of water from the two sources of public supply as follows :—

Glyn Lws	29 samples.
Rhyl U.D.C.	6 samples.

All samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and it is very satisfactory to report that all were reported on as being " Ministry of Health Classification—Class 1—Highly Satisfactory."

In addition, two samples of water from a private supply, intended for use on farm premises, were collected, and advice was given to the owner.

On 1st April, 1954, the Order made by the Ministry of Food declaring the coastal strip of North Wales to be a " Specified Area " came into force. By this Order all milk sold had to be of the type known as " Specially Designated."

Forty-eight samples of milk were collected and submitted for bacteriological examination, made up as follows :—

Pasteurised	29 samples.
Sterilised	5 samples.
Tuberculin tested	12 samples.
Ungraded	2 samples.

The forty-six " Specially designated " milk samples all satisfied the prescribed standards, and the two samples of ungraded milk collected before April 1st gave a satisfactory result when subjected to the methylene blue reduction test.

Six samples of milk sold raw in the district were collected and submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All samples gave a negative result.

During the summer months the routine sampling of ice-cream was again carried out and a total of sixty samples were obtained.

The following table shows the bacteriological grading of these samples :—

Grade 1	44 samples.
Grade 2	11 samples.
Grade 3	4 samples.
Grade 4	1 sample.

In the five cases where the results fell into Grades 3 and 4, investigations were made into the methods of preparation and handling, and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1954

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	924	38	474	10021	1750
Number Inspected	924	38	474	10021	1750
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses con- demned	1	2	5	23	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	211	15	1	265	25
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	22%	55%	1%	2.9%	1.5%

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcasses con- demned	1	—	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	25	10	—	—	100
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3%	26%	0.2%	—	6%

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIR

Beef :

(a) Complete Carcasses :—

	lbs.
2 Cows—Other diseases	960
Cows—Generalised Tuberculosis	Nil
1 Ox—Generalised Tuberculosis	590
1 Ox—Other diseases	460

(b) Part Carcase and Organs :—

7 Cows—Localised Tuberculosis	248
19 Cows—Other diseases	228
32 Oxen—Localised Tuberculosis	935
212 Oxen—Other diseases	2821

Pork :

(a) Complete Carcases :

Generalised Tuberculosis	Nil
2 Pigs—Other diseases	532

(b) Part Carcase and Organs :—

100 Parts—Localised Tuberculosis	1083
29 Parts—Other diseases	145

Veal :

1 Complete Calf Carcase—Tuberculosis	180
5 Complete Calf Carcases—Other diseases	140

Mutton and Lamb :

23 Complete Sheep Carcases	793
112 Part Carcases and Organs	244
(All non-Tubercular Conditions)	

Total Weight Condemned 4 tons, 3 cwts., 2 qrs., 7 lbs.

OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED

	lbs.
Canned Fruit	434
Canned Vegetables	262
Canned Milk	198
Canned Meat	315
Canned Soup	84
Dried Fruit	58
Bacon	126
Beef	180
Pork	26

Total Weight Condemned 15 cwts., 3 lbs.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The amount of work which has to be undertaken by the employees in the Refuse and Salvage Service continues steadily to increase. Year by year, more houses and other premises, which have to be serviced, are being built. During the holiday season the resident population of a little over seven thousand increases to about thirty-five thousand. It will readily be appreciated that this seasonal increase imposes an almost impossible task on the restricted number of men and vehicles available.

Normally two vehicles, both "Karrier Gamecock" of 10 cubic yards capacity, are used with trailers for salvage. During the holiday season a third vehicle, a "Fordson" of 10 cubic yards capacity, is brought into use. It was found impossible to engage an additional workman for the holiday period, but fortunately the Surveyor was able to second one of his men. The number of men employed in this service is eight.

On my recommendation a foreman was appointed, and to him must be attributed the major portion of the credit for the smooth and efficient running of this service.

Under normal conditions a weekly collection of refuse and salvage is made in all but a few isolated areas. A number of pail closets are also emptied weekly. During the holiday season, wherever possible a more frequent service is given to shops and to camping sites.

Camp refuse presents a number of problems. It is very bulky, containing a very high proportion of soiled paper, empty food cans and other containers, and, of course, no clinker or ashes. In quantity it is very large, and in composition it is very putrescible. Frequent collection is essential if nuisance is to be avoided. The disposal of camp refuse creates a number of problems, because of fire risk and because of a greater loss of depth due to settlement. The fact that there were no tip fires during 1954 may perhaps be partly due to the very wet weather which prevailed during most of the year.

During the financial year ended 31st March, 1955, salvage to the value of £843 was collected and sold, compared with a figure of £707 for the previous year. Once again I feel that in the main

the credit for the improved service must be attributed to the foreman. The details of the salvaged materials are as follows :—

Type	Weight				Value		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s	d
Mixed Paper	75	0	3	0	514	6	10
Fibre Board	25	3	0	0	226	7	0
Rags	2	13	2	18	48	13	8
Metals	12	13	0	24	54	8	9
Total	115	10	2	14	843	16	3

This income from Salvage is off-set against the total cost of the service. It is obvious from an inspection of the tip that more paper salvage could be obtained if full co-operation from all concerned could be secured.

An instructive and enjoyable visit was made by a Council party to the Mersey Works of the Thames Board Mills at Warrington, where the transformation of waste paper into cardboard is carried out.

Refuse disposal has been effected by tipping at Beach House, Llanddulas. In the collection of refuse, daily contact with the public is made, and generally speaking that is where the public's interest in refuse finishes. The disposal of refuse is, of course, the completion of the task, and its importance is at least equal to that of collection.

The difficulties of disposal at Beach House are well known, as are many of the disadvantages of the site. It is, however, remote from any residential area, and two additional objects are being achieved concurrently with refuse disposal, namely, the creation of new land—already several acres have been formed, and a useful, if small, contribution to the problem of coast defence.

The problem of finding a new refuse disposal site must be faced, although it is not easy at present to state when the present arrangements should be concluded.

